

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /073 W  
-----015496 271314Z /43

R 271156Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6192  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 7971

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, SY, PLO  
SUBJ: SYRIA AND HABASH

1. ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBOFF WITH GOOD PALESTINIAN CONTACTS, PRESIDENT ASSAD AND PFLP LEADER HABASH HAD LONG DISCUSSION AT TRIPOLI SUMMIT WHICH HAS RESULTED IN A DE FACTO RECONCILIATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIAN REJECTION FRONT. HABASH IS EXPECTED TO VISIT SYRIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. IN ADDITION, FRENCH EMBOFF SIAD, REJECTIONISTS HAVE NOW DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE AGAIN IN THE PALESTINIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL; PFLP AND ALF INTEND TO SEND TWO REPRESENTATIVES EACH TO THE NEXT PCC MEETING WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD SHORTLY IN DAMASCUS.

3. AS A RESULT OF THIS RE-INTERGRATION OF THE REJECTIONISTS  
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WITH THE PLO, FRENCH EMBOFF OPINED, PLO NOW HAS GREATER CONTROL OVER REJECTIONIST ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH LEBANON. THIS, IN TURN, HAS LESSENER SYRIAN CONCERN THAT REJECTIONIST UNITS MIGHT ACT INDEPENDENTLY AND CONSEQUENTLY HAS LESSENER SYRIAN INCLINATION TO PUSH PLO IN IMPLEMENT SHTAURA AGREEMENT.

4. COMMENT: THIS ACCOUNT CONFIRMS OTHER REPORTING OF RECONCILIATION BETWEEN ASSAD AND HABASH WHO HAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEEN PERSONA NON GRATA IN DAMASCUS. IN ADDITIONS, RENEWED PARTICIPATION OF PFLP IN CENTRAL COUNCIL CAN ONLY INCREASE STRENGTH OF HARD LINERS WHO WE UNDERSTAND HAVE ALREADY OUTNUMBERED MODERATES VOICES AT RECENT PCC SESSIONS. REDUCED SYRIAN PRESSURE ON PLO RE SHTAURA AGREEMENT APPEARS A LOGICAL INFERENCE FORM EVIDENT PALESTINIAN FOOT-DRAGGING ON ISSUE OF WITHDRAWALS IN SOUTH LEBANON. SYRIANS, NEVERTHELESS, PROFESS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR SHTAURA IMPLEMENTATION AND ARE CERTAINLY NOT INTERESTED AT THIS JUNCTURE IN ANY RENEWED VIOLENCE IN SOUTH WHICH COULD TRIGGER ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT.

MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL LEADERS, MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PINS, SY, PLO, (ASAD, HAFIZ), (HABBASH, GEORGE)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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